

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00938 031002Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /091 W

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R 030655Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2346

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0938

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, MU, KS, RQ

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO SUMMIT, KOREA AND PUERTO
RICO

REF: (A) STATE 181500; (B) 178439

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR OFFICIAL IN OMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY,
IN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE, TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT OMAN'S
POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE IS UNCHANGED FROM RECENT YEARS.
HE SAID SULTAN QABOOS PERSONALLY REITERATED THIS TO HIM IN
JULY 28 AUDIENCE ONLY THREE DAYS AFTER VISITING ROK DELEGATION
CALLED ON OMANI OFFICIALS IN MUSCAT. BRITISH CHARGE HERE HAS
BEEN TOLD THAT OMAN "WILL BE LOBBYING FOR ROK" AS ISSUE
ARISES, BUT THAT IT ANTICIPATES MUCH ARAB OPPOSITION. WE BE-
LIEVE OMANDEL AT COLOVIO WILL TRY TO AVOID GETTING INTO EXPOSED
POSITIONS WHILE CARRYING

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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00938 031002Z

OUT ITS INSTRUCTIONS, LEST CREDENTIALS

WITH FELLOW ARABS BE TARNISHED.: ON PUERTO RICO, OMAN PROFESSES FULL AGREEMENT WITH USG POSITION BUT WE SUSPECT OMANIS AT COLOMBO WILL DO LITTLE MORE THAN REMAIN SILENT IF ISSUE ARISES THERE.

2. HAVING SENT SECRETARY'S JULY 22 REMARKS ON KOREA TO FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY, AMBASSADOR TOOK INITIATIVE TO COMPARE NOTES WITH BRITISH CHARGE COUPLE DAYS AGO. (BRITS SUPPOSEDLY ARE COSE GROUP "CONVENER" HERE.) LEARNED THAT BRITS ON JULY 28 MADE DEMARCHE TO FONMIN POLITICAL DEPT. CHIEF, THEN THE SENWBR FONMIN OFFICIAL IN MUSCAT. THEY WERE TOLD OMAN WOULD "AGAIN BE IN THE FOREFRONT" OF ROK SUPPORTERS IF KOREAN ISSUE ARISES AT COLOMBO AND UNGA, AND WOULD BE LOBBYING FOR ROK POSITIONS ALTHOUGH MOST ARABS WOULD BE ON OTHER SIDE. BRITISH HERE REMAIN SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, THAT OMANDELS WILL CHOOSE TO BE VERY DETERMINED ON THE ISSUE IN EITHER FORUM.

3. MEANSHILE ROK DELEGATION LED BY MINISTER LEE TONG-WON STOPPED IN MUSCAT JULY 24-25, CALLING ON FONMIN UNDERSETC AL-ALAWI AND ON COMMERCE AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS. IT MADE NO CONTACT WIRH BRITS OR WITH US BUT RECEIVED PUBLICITY IN OFFICIAL LOCAL NEWSPAPER AND MUST HAVE DONE ITS JOB WELL.

4. AMBASSADOR CALLED AUGUST 2 ON UNDERSEC AL-ALAWI, MADE SHORT PITCH ON BOTH KOREAN AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES AND LEFT BOTH AIDES-MEMOIRE. ALAWI, WHO RECENTLY AS JULY 23 HAD AGAIN COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT OMAN WAS EXPOSED AND EMBARRASSED IN ARAB CIRCLES BY ITS STRONG PRO-ROK STAND IN 1975 AND MIGHT RECONSIDER WHERE ITS OWN INTERESTS LAY ON THAT ISSUE, IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT OMANGOV WILL HEW TO ITS PREVIOUS POSITION AGAIN IN 1976. SAID HE HAD TOLD VISITING SOUTH KOREANS LAST WEEK THAT OMAN IS SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR POSITION. ALAWI ADDED HE HAD DISCUSSED KOREA DURING HIS JULY 28 AUDIENCE WITH THE SULTAN AT SALALAH, AND HM DIRECTED THAT A FIRM STAND FOR ROK AND AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS BE MAINTAINED AS PREVIOUSLY. UNDERSEC ADDED THAT OMAN FULLY RESPECTS USG VIEW THAT PUERTO RICO PROPERLY IS U.S. DOMESTIC
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PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00938 031002Z

AFFAIR, NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, THOUGH THIS VIEW NOT UNANIMOUS AMONG ARAB STATES.

5. COMMENT: AS WE TOLD UNDERSECRETARY, WE ARE PLEASED OMAN VIEWS THESE MATTERS AS WE DO. WE ALSO ARE MILDLY SURPRISED AT STRENGTH OF DECLARATIONS TO BRITS AND OURSELVES BY FONMIN OFFICIALS REGARDING THEIR SUPPORT ON KOREAN QUESTION. SUSPECT THAT IF LEFT TO ITSELF,

FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HAVE EDGED AWAY FROM OMAN'S
PREVIOUS STAND, BUT SULTAN HIMSELF APPARENTLY HAS GIVEN
FIRM POLICY DIRECTION ON THIS ISSUE AND MINISTRY WILL
CERTAINLY HEED THIS ALTHOUGH IT PROBABLY WILL DO SO AS
QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.
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